Table of Contents

1. Ch-1
2. A/N
3. Ch-2
4. Ch- 3
5. A/N
6. Ch-4
7. Ch-5

Ch-1

[image]

Firepaw P.O.V

Longtail tumbled away from him. Rusty scrambled to his paws and looked around. Longtail was crouching three tail lenghts away. And dangling from Longtail's jaws Rusty's collar mangled and broken.

Firepaw sighed he remembered that day well it was when he had become an apprentice for the first time. "Firepaw, earth to Firepaw!" Graypaw called "Oh uh sorry Graypaw what were you saying again?" Firepaw asked

"I was saying that Lionheart might let me help you with hunting after I deliver this message" Graypaw meowed after sighing "Uhmmm" Firepaw meowed in a distracted tone "What Is Up With You Today!" Graypaw half meowed half shouted "Nothing" Firepaw meowed quickly

"If you say so" Greypaw meowed padding away Firepaw sighed he couldn't help his thoughts drifting to Longtail for some reason ..... Firepaw shook his head.

He retraced his steps back to the stream, suddenly he caught a faint scent in the breeze

A Stranger! Maybe that Shadowclan warrior.....

Instantly a growl rumbled in Firepaw's throath. The scent message told him many things. The stranger was a she cat, not young, definitely not a Thunderclan cat.

She carried no distinct scent from any of the clans, but Firepaw could tell that she was tired, hungry, sick and she was in an ugly mood.

_____Time skip_____

(After the fight and Bluestar allowed Yellowfang to stay)

Longtail's P.O.V

"*W*ell I hope you'll think twice about bringing strays into camp next time" he sneered "As I said, outsiders ***always*** bring trouble"

Longtail padded away from Firepaw, he knew what he said was a bit harsh but he couldn't help himself, that puny kittypet had ruined his reputation in Thunderclan.

Longtail snarled as he remembered the V shaped nick the pest had given him. He walked to the warrior's den to get some sleep.

Longtail woke up darkeness surrounded him, then he heard a familliar voice "*Longtail Ooh Longtail"* he turned around and saw *Firepaw...?* Suddenly a flash of lightning bolted nearly hitting Longtail. Then Spottedleaf's voice echoed "Fire will save the clan but it must find a spark for it to blaze"

A/N

[image]

I am so soo sooo soooo sorry for not updating in such a loooong time I just had some issues with covid and all since my parents got covid but now they're all better and I can start writing again so the next chapter will be updated soon

Ch-2

Longtail woke up startled, what was that dream? Did he get a message from starclan? No! No no no no no no no, if starclan wanted to convey a message to the clan it would be through Spottedleaf, not me. *But that was a really weird dream, and why was that annoying kittypet in my dream!* Ughhhh that stupid kittypet was already interfering in his personal life without even knowing.

He grunted as he woke up "What time is it?" He whispered to himself he looked out of the warrior's den, it was a bit past dawn "Well, time to get up" he said, yawning as he stretched his legs, he walked out of the warrior's den. Longtail walked up to the freshkill pile grabbed a mouse, deciding to eat with Darkstripe today

"So I heard you were beat up by the kittypet" Darkstripe teased "Oh shut up will you, I was just going easy on him, the next time we spar I'm gonna go all out and give him a little reminder while I'm at it" Longtail said frustrated "Whatever you say....." Darkstripe trailed off sarcastically *Ughhhhhhh that kittypet who does he think he is coming into my life out of nowhere!! And making a complete fool out of me! I just want to rip him into tiny pieces, is that so wrong?!!!*

Longtail finished up his mouse and stood up "I'm going hunting" He said before turning around to leave. He walked out of the camp walls "Hmmm where should I hunt?" The long tailed warrior pondered "Sunningrocks would be nice but there was a battle there recently and tensions are still high so no." "Hmmm what about snakerocks? Nah I don't wanna be checking for adders behind my back every few seconds this early in the morning" "What about in the ravine yah, that would be a nice place to hunt but..... Greypaw is going hunting their today" *Well it's my only other option I guess I'll have to get their faster then them if I want to contribute in stocking up the camp incase Shadowclan warriors attack*

Once Longtail reached the Ravine he immediately scented a vole near the stream, he got into a hunter's crouch and steadily creep closer, he was just about to pounce when..... another cat pounced

before him and caught the vole, snapping it's neck and placing it down. Frustrated Longtail looked up to see who stole his prey and it was none other then the Kittypet!!!!!! "Grrrrr dumb kittypet why did you have to steal my prey!!" Longtail snarled "Oh Longtail!!" Firepaw looked up in surprise "I didn't notice you were here sorry for stealing your catch" He apologised "Tch whatever I can't blame you, *Wait what am I saying!!* after all you are a kittypet who doesn't know the first thing about clan life and will probably go back crying for it's owners since clan life is too rough for it" Longtail sneered

"I'm not a kittypet!! And I'm never going back to the two-legs I'll prove everycat wrong and become the best warrior Thunderclan's ever seen!" Firepaw stated before running off with his catch *Heh he's cute when he's angry.... WAIT WHAT!!!! What am I thinking!!!! Ughhhhhh stupid kittypet*

_____ Time Skip _____

Firepaw P.O.V:

I'm not a kittypet, I'm not a kittypet, I'm not a kittypet, I'm not a kittypet, I'm not a kittyp- "Firepaw!!" Graypaw yelled snapping him out of his thoughts "Wh- what?" Firepaw stuttered "Firepaw! You've been crouching like that for at least 20 minutes and that vole has been long gone what were you doing?" Greypaw stated "Well I was umm thinking about something" Firepaw meowed *Well it's only half a lie* "Oh really, then why weren't you answering when I was calling you several times?" Greypaw asked "You were?" Firepaw meowed

"Ughhhh ofcourse I was, anyway let's get back to camp maybe the afternoon sun is making you dizzy" Graypaw meowed as he headed back to camp "Yeah maybe" Firepaw meowed as he catched up with his freind

_____At camp_____

Firepaw could tell the cat's at camp were impressed by the amount of prey the three apprentices had manged to catch during their afternoon hunt, *well most of them* he thought as he saw Longtail glaring at him, Lionheart and Tigerclaw had just returned with their patrol as Firepaw, Greypaw and Ravenpaw carried their last load

into camp "Well done you three" Lionheart meowed "I hear you've been busy, the store is full you might as well add that last bit to the fresh-kill pipe for tonight, and take some of it with you to your den you deserve a feast!" He meowed, the three apprentices flicked their tails with delight

"I hope you've not been neglecting Yellowfang with all this hunting Firepaw" Tigerclaw growled warningly Firepaw shook his head impatiently, eager to get away. He was starving. He had obeyed the warrior code this time and not eaten a morsel while he was out hunting for the clan, nor had Graypaw or Ravenpaw. They trotted away and dropped the last of their kill on the fresh kill pile, it was already quite stacked *huh Longtail must have stacked it* Firepaw thought.

They each took a peice and carried it back to the den, the den was empty "Where are Sandpaw and Dustpaw?" Asked Ravenpaw "They must still be out on patrol" Firepaw guessed "Good" Greypaw meowed "Peace and Quiet". They ate their fill and lay back to wash the cool evening air was welcomed after the heat of the day

Ch- 3

[image]

"Hey! Guess what!" Meowed Graypaw suddenly "Ravenpaw managed to squeeze a compliment out of old Tigerclaw this morning" "Really?" Firepaw gasped "What on earth did you do to please Tigerclaw.....fly!??" "Well," Ravenpaw began shyly looking at his paws " I caught a crow" " How'd you manage that?" Firepaw meowed impressed "Well, it was an old one" Ravenpaw admitted modestly "But it was huge!" Added Graypaw "Even Tigerclaw couldn't find anything wrong with that. He's been in such a bad mood ever since Bluestar took you on as her apprentice" He licked his paw thoughtfully for a moment "Hang on, make that since Lionheart became deputy" Graypaw corrected himself

"He's just worried about Shadowclan and the extra patrols" Ravenpaw meowed hastily "You should try not to annoy him" Their conversation was interrupted by a loud yowl from the other side if the clearing "Oh no" Firepaw groaned, getting to his paws "I forgot to take Yellowfang her share!" "You wait here" Graypaw said leaping up "I'll take her something" "No, I'd better go" Firepaw protested "This is my punishment not yours" "Nobody will notice" Graypaw argued "They're all busy eating, you know me: quiet as a mouse, speedy as a fish. Wait here"

Firepaw watched his freind trot away to the tree stump, he was glad for the few peacefull moments now he could finally think without getting interrupted *Hmm for some reason my fight with Longtail keeps replaying itself in my head, not to mention that weird dream I had last night.*

Flashback
Firepaw~ Firepaw~! "Huh!! Who's there!? Come out and fight me!" Firepaw yelled getting into a protective stance "Fire alone must save the clan but it must find a spark for it to blaze" A familiar but unknown voice said (btw, for those of you who don't know I updated the prophecy)*"W-what!" Firepaw stuttered "Find a spark for it to blaze~"*

"Find a spark for it to blaze~" "Find a spark for it to blaze~!" The voice echoed into the darkness until it was no more
End of Flashback

"Firepaw!" Ravenpaw whisper/shouted "H-huh what?" Firepaw replied startled "W-weren't you paying attention? Tigerclaw caught Greypaw!" Ravenpaw whispered in panic "What?!" Firepaw turned around to see Tigerclaw force Greypaw to eat two fat mice, Firepaw's stomach clenched as he saw Graypaw walking towards them with a heavy belly "Sorry you had to go through that" Firepaw appologised as he nudged his freinds soft fur "N-no problem" Greypaw grunted as he fell to the floor Fireheart flinched "Are you okay Greypaw?" Firepaw asked concerned "A-ate t-too m-much" Greypaw grunted in pain "Go and see Spottedleaf" Firepaw suggested "I'm sure she'll find something to help" "I hope so" meowed Greypaw tottering away slowly, Firepaw wanted to watch him go, until another angry yowl from Yellowfang sent him sprinting across the clearing

Longtail P.O.V:

Longtail couldn't help but chuckle as he watched Firepaw scurrying across the clearing to Yellowfang, then suddenly he heard footsteps make it's way to him "Lionheart wants you on a hunting patrol with the *kittypet* after he's finished feeding Yellowfang" Tigerclaw snarled spitting out the word kittypet with disgust, though Longtail could hear a bit of despise in Lionheart's name as well "Of course Tigerclaw" meowed Longtail saluting him verbally Tigerclaw just nodded his head in response

Longtail walked passed Tigerclaw and padded towards Firepaw, now one would think that Longtail would find it absolute torture to be paired up with Firepaw but what was actually going on in his head was *Heh I can imagine the frustration and horror on the kittypet's cute face* thought Longtail .....*Wait..... Cute!!!??* Longtail thought with frustration and worry all over his face *Gah! What is happening to me!? I keep thinking these weird things about the kittypet since..... I don't know how long !!!* Thought Longtail in alarm

_____Short Time Skip_____

"Hey kittypet!" Said Longtail in annoyance "H-huh!" Said Firepaw startled as he jumped around in surprise, Longtail couldn't help but inwardly smirk at this "Lionheart wants us for a hunting patrol" Meowed Longtail "O-oh! Ofcourse!" Stammered Firepaw "Come on let's get going" Said Longtail trying to sound as annoyned as possible, which failed miserably but Firepaw seemed to have beleived it

(*When they got to Lionheart)*

"Ah, there you are Longtail, Firepaw" Called Lionheart "Come on now, let's get on with the patrol" He meowed "Ofcourse Lionheart!" Meowed Firepaw energetically "I like to see that enthusiasm young Firepaw" Lionheart said as the he padded away with the patrol close behind (Incase you're wondering, the patrol is: Longtail, Firepaw, Sandpaw,Whitestorm, Runningwind and Lionheart)

Lionheart led them to Sunningrocks "Whitestorm you can pair up with Sandpaw, Runningwind with me and Longtail with Firepaw" Lionheart instructed they nodded in agreement and went their seperate ways. Longtail lifted his tail signalling Firepaw to stop; at first Firepaw seemed confused but he soon found out why. Longtail had scented a squirrel, "You go from behind and chase it towards me, okay?" Longtail whispered, Firepaw silently nodded as he crept his way behind the squirrel, he then got into his hunting crouch and pretended to pounce on the squirell sending it towards Longtail who succesfully caught it. With a rinse and repeat of the whole afternoon and you got yourself a succesfull hunt

"Okay I think one more catch and that should be enough" Said Longtail, Firepaw nodded eagerly, they scented a thrush and Firepaw stealthily sneaked up behind it and began chasing it Longtail's way, but what they didn't know was that the thrush had already spotted Longtail and instead of being driven into his paws the thrush flew away, sending Longtail and Firepaw crashing into each other. Firepaw was on top of Longtail and they were in a position in which if any cat stumbled upon them it could easily be misunderstood

Both of them blushed at how close they were and a flutter arose in Longtails chest his pelt was suddenly heating up and he felt like he

had butterflies in his stomach (same for Firepaw)
- *What is happening to me!!??*
- *What is happening to me!!??*
They both thought

A/N: Hello everyone I just wanted to tell you that I will probably be updating once in a week and thank you for reading my fanfics (also this is a new record 1061 words)

A/N

I'm soooooooo so sorry for not uploading in..... I think a month so ummm yeah I'll try to update as frequently as possible byeeeee

Ch-4

[image]

"G-get off of me stupid kittypet" Longtail meowed "O-oh r-right! S-sorry Longtail!" Firepaw stuttered before getting off of Longtail, they both avoided looking at each other and there was an awkward silence "Come on let's head back to the others" Longtail said breaking the silence. Firepaw nodded padding up to the spot they burried their catches and carried a mouthful, Longtail did the same as they started walking towards the camp still avoiding each other's gazes *What was that feeling again? Why does my heart pound everytime that damn kittypet comes near me?Ughhhhhhhh dammit what is that kittypet doing to me!* "Erm L-longtail we're at the camp" Firepaw meowed in a muffled voice snapping Longtail out of his thoughts "Tch whatever" He said as he padded away towards the fresh-kill pile

_____The Next Day_____

Firepaw P.O.V:
Firepaw woke up feeling damp, it had been an uncomfortable night. Not just because of the rain but also and mainly because of thoughts, thoughts thoughts thoughts. They kept him awake uptil the middle of the night, thoughts like *What was that feeling!* Or *W-why do I keep remembering that moment... when we were so close, our faces only inches apart, the thumping of my heart and.....* Or *Why do I get such a strange feeling when I'm with him, butterflies in my stomach and my heart pounding in my chest, my face get's all hot and flustered and.....!* Yeah thoughts like that.

He stood up and shook himself vigorously, fluffing out his fur. Then he left the apprentice's den and trotted across the clearing to Yellowfang's nest, wincing slightly at the cool air. Yellowfang was just stirring, she lifted her head and squinted at Firepaw as he approached "My bones ache this morning has it been raining all night?"
"Since just after moonhigh" Firepaw replied he reached out and

prodded her mossy nest cautiously "Your bedding is soaking wet. Why don't you move nearer to the nursery? It's more sheltered there" the tom advised "What? And get kept awake by those mewling kits! I'd rather get wet!" Yellowfang growled. Firepaw watched her circle stiffly on her mossy bed. "Then atleast let me fetch you some dry bedding" he offered, keen to drop the subject of kits if it upset the old she-cat so much "Thank you, Firepaw" Yellowfang replied quietly, settling down again.

Firepaw felt stunned, he wondered if Yellowfang was feeling allright. It was the first time she had thanked him for anything, and the first time she had not called him *kittypet* "Well don't just stand there like a startled squirrel; go fetch some moss!"She snapped, Firepaw's whiskers twitched with amusement. This was more like the Yellowfang he was used to, he nodded and sprinted off.
_____Time Skip_____
(After BlueStar talked to FirePaw)

Bluestar was right, Graypaw and Raven were both waiting for him by their favourite tree stump. Graypaw looked stiff and uncomfortable, his long fur clumped by the dampness of the air; Ravenpaw was pacing around the tree stump, lost in thought, the white tip of his tail twitching "So, you're joining us today!" Graypaw called as Firepaw approached "Some day, huh?" He shook himself roughly to get rid of the clinging wetness "Yes, Bluestar told me that Tigerclaw is going to asses us today. Are Sandpaw and Dustpaw coming too?" Firepaw asked "Whitestorm and Darkstripe took them out on warrior patrol.I suppose Tigerclaw is going to look at them later" Graypaw answered

"Come on! We should get going," urged Ravenpaw; he had stopped pacing and now hovered beside them anxiously "Fine by me, hopefully some excercise will warm me up a bit" Graypaw meowed. The three cats trotted through the gorse track and out of the camp, they hurried to the sandy hollow; Tigerclaw had not arrived, so they hung around in the shelter of a pine tree, their fur fluffed up against the chill "Are you worried about the assesment?" Firepaw asked Ravenpaw, as the young cat padded backward and forward with quick, nervous pawsteps. "There's no need to be, you're Tigerclaw's apprentice after all. When he reports back to Bluestar,

he's going to want to tell her how good you are" Firepaw reassured "You can never tell with Tigercaw" Ravenpaw meowed anxiously, still pacing

"For goodness' sake, sit down," Graypaw grumbled "At this rate you'll be worn out before we begin!" Firepaw however was not listening, lost in his own thoughts '*I hope I pass the assesment, otherwise that will only prove the stereotype that kittypet's are weak! So I can't be nervous I have to believe in myself*' Firepaw thought fiercely '*Plus if I fail, I'll be disappointing so many cats like Bluestar, Greypaw, Lionheart, Longtail..... Wait what!!?'* Firepaw thought suprised at his own thought *'No, no it's not weird to be scared of disappointing an ambitious warrior'* Firepaw thought firmly '*Sure, unless it's a cat you've been constantly at rivalry with and not on good terms aaand always thinking about'* Supplied the other part of his brain 'helpfully'.

In turn making Firepaw's face flush "Ughhhh what is taking Tigerclaw so looong" Graypaw groaned, snapping Firepaw out of his thoughts and Graypaw was right the clouds had already started to darken '*Speak of the devil'* (lol don't know what warrior cats word would substitute devil since they don't know 'bout the darkforest yet) Firepaw thought as Tigerclaw arrived. Tigerclaw greeted them briskly and launched straight into exercise details "Lionheart and I have spent the last few weeks trying to teach you how to hunt decently," he meowed "Today you'll have a chance to show me how much you have learned. Each of you will take a different route and hunt as much prey as possible. And whatever you catch will be added to the supplies in camp" The three apprentices looked at one another, nervous an excited; Firepaw felt his heart begin to bet faster at the prospect of a challenge.

"Ravenpaw, you will follow the trail beyond the Great Sycamore as far as the Snakerocks. That should be easy enough for your pitiful skills, you Greypaw," Tigerclaw continued "will take the route along the stream, as far as the Thunderpath" "Great" meowed Graypaw "Wet paws for me!" Tigerclaw's stare silenced him. "And finally you, Firepaw. What a shame your great mentor couldn't be here today to witness your performance for herself; You shall take the route through the Tallpines, past the Treecut place, to the woods beyond" Tigerclaw instructed; Firepaw nodded, frantically tracing the route

in his head.

"And remember" Tigerclaw finished, fixing them all whith his pale-eyed stare, "I shall be watching all of you"

Longtail P.O.V:
Longtail was out in the forest wanting to be alone at the moment, sorting his mess of thoughts 'Ughhh, I still can't get that dream out of my head' he thought as his mind kept wondering to the peculiar dream he had; Ever since that day every night was sleepless, for when he closed his eyes to drift to sleep a voice called him to him '*Longtail~ Oh Longtail~'* and that stupid phrase would be repeated over and over again *' **Fire will save the clan but it must find a spark for it to blaze'*** . Longtail was so confused and frustrated *'Why, why!! Why must I have to see/hear that repeatedly, every night, over and over again. It can't be a coincidence with how it's displayed and how I get it every night, but then why!! If it was a message from Starclan why not send it to the medicine cat!!"*

Longtail thought frustratedly clawing at the ground to remove some pent up anger *'Plus, why is the kittypet there! Ughh It's all his fault, if he wasn't here then everything would be normal! I wouldn't be utterly humiliated and I wouldn't have these weird feelings'* He thought angrily. If you'd have seen him at the time you would've thought he had a horrible fever or it was extremely hot as his face was as red as a tomato with some sweat dripping down his fur and it almost seemed like he was on the verge of tears with how pent up/ frustrated he was.

He stopped clawing at the ground and was just taking deep breaths, in an effort to calm himself '*No, calm yourself Longtail imagine what the others would think if they found out that a warrior was clawing at the ground **like an apprentice!** Just because of a kittypet'* he thought '*Especially Tigerclaw, Imagine what he'd think! Ofcourse he'd be dissapointed I mean even he and Darkstripe put up with the kittypet and you don't see them acting like an apprentice!'* He reasoned with himself, but the nagging feeling when he thought of Firepaw was still lingering

'*Wait, what if this is some kittypet disease or something and maybe the disease is making me hallucinate about those dreams!'* He thought, the

thought had never crossed his mind but that had to be it! Afterall what else could be the reason? Sureee the theory didn't fill in all the holes but still it was better than being completely in the dark '*I should probably tell Spottedleaf about this...'* He thought but pushed that thought away if this *was* some sort of disease then he needed to know bout it from the cat in question himself ***Firepaw***

A/N: Lol, I'm sorry if this seems rushed, but I wanted to get this out as soon as possible 'cause I haven't updated so it's not everything I was going to add in and the ending was rushed . So my apologies

Ch-5

[image]

Firepaw P.O.V:
Ravenpaw was the first to sprint away towards the Snakerocks. Tigerclaw took a different track into the woods, leaving Graypaw and Firepaw alone in the hollow, trying to guess who Tigerclaw would follow first. "I don't know why he thinks Snakerocks is an easy route!" meowed Graypaw "The place is crawling with adders. Birds and mice stay away from there because there are so many snakes!"

"Ravenpaw'll have to spend his whole time trying not to get bitten," Firepaw agreed "Oh he'll be ok, not even an adder would be fast enough to catch Ravenpaw at the moment, he's so jumpy" Graypaw meowed "I'd better get going, see you back here later on, Good luck!"

Graypaw raced off towards the stream. Firepaw paused to sniff the air,then he bounded up the side of the hollow and began to head for the Tallpines. It felt strange to be going in this direction, toward the twoleg he had been raised in *and had left behind for* ***good*** *no matter* ***what*** *anycat said.* Firepaw frowned at the thought, but this was no place to be lost in his thoughts otherwise he would be as soft a kittypet as *they* made him out to be, so he trudged on focusing on nothing but the task at hand he could not *afford* to fail this assesment.

Cautiously, Firepaw crossed the narrow path into the pine forest. He looked through the straight rows of trees, across the flat forest floor, alert for the sight and scent of prey. A movement caught his eye, it was a mouse, scrabbling through the pine needles. Remembering his first lesson, Firepaw dropped into the stalking position, keeping his weight in his haunches, his paws light on the ground. The technique worked perfectly, the mouse didn't detect him until his final leap.

He caught it with one paw and killed it swiftly. Then he buried it,

so that he could pick it up on the return journey. Firepaw travelled a little farther into the Tallpines. The ground here was deeply rutted by the tracks of the huge Twoleg monster that tore down the trees. Firepaw took a deep breath, his mouth open. The monster's acid scent had not touched the air for a while. Firepaw followed the deep tracks, jumping across the ruts. They were half-filled with rain, which made him feel thirsty

He was tempted to stop and take a few mouthfuls, but he hesitated. One lap of that muddy trench water and he'd taste the monster's foul smelling tracks for days, *"heh"* he thought inwardly, feeling a little nostalgic

_____*Flashback*_____

"Ma!" "Ma!" a young teary-eyed Firepaw/Rusty cried. He was so tiny back then just a little kit, infatuated with curiosity of the world outside the fence gates always longing for adventure. "What made you so upset dear?" A brown and white tabby asked fondly.

"I-I drank the water from t-t-the trik?You know! Those marks that the mwonsters make on the ground and s-sometimes after ot rains there's water in them?" Rusty meowed franticly "You mean tracks?" His mother asked with an amused smile "Y-yeah those! I drank fwrom them and now I can't smell anything but those monsters! And it smells really horrible" Rusty complained his eyes tearing up again.

The molly shaked her head sighing "Didn't I tell you not to drink from those Rusty?" She meowed "Y-yeah" Rusty answered "And you ***still*** *drank it?" "Y-yeah" "Then I can't do anything for you, I warned you and you still did it so I'm not to blame.* **Remember** *, I tell you things for a* ***reason*** *" "O-okay" Rusty sniffled sulking "Next time, listen to me and you won't have to hope that an acidic stench will wear off in a day* ***at best****" Rusty nodded walking off towards his sibling(s)? with a pouty lip and misty eyes hoping to get some sympathy/younger sibling privileges*

_____*End Of Flashback* ____

Firepaw shook his head with a small frown, he shouldn't be thinking about back then. He had made his choice when he met with Lionheart, and the decision was finalized after his spar with

Longtail; *Longtail,* he quickĺy reprimanded himself knowing that once he started thinking about the striped tabby it would take time before he got out of the rabbithole it would put him through.

Plus, Tigerclaw might be watching me right now, staring into nothing like a blundering idiot for a good few minutes, wasting my time and with that thought the ginger-pelted tom hurried onward through the trees and crossed the Twoleg path on the far boundary. He was back amid the thick undergrowth of oak woods, moving onward until he found a puddle and lapped up a few mouthfuls of the fresh water. Firepaw's fur began to prickle with some extra awareness, he recognized sounds and scents familiar from his old watching place on the fence post, and instantly knew where he was.

Ahead Firepaw could smell Twolegs and hear their voices, loud and raucous like crows; it was a group of young Twolegs, playing in the woods. Firepaw crouched and peered ahead through the ferns, the sounds were distant enough to be safe; he changed direction, skirting the noises, making sure he was not seen. Firepaw stayed alert and watchful, but not just for Twolegs- Tigerclaw might be somewhere nearby, he thought he heard a twig snap in the bushes behind him. He sniffed the air, but smelled nothing new, was he being watched now? He wondered

Out of the corner of his eye Firepaw sensed movement, at first, he thought it was Tigerclaw's dark brown fur, but then he saw a flash of white. He stopped, crouched and inhaled deeply, the smell was unfamiliar, it was a cat; but not a Thunderclan cat. Firepaw felt his fur bristle with the instincts of a warrior, *An intruder? Were trespassers common in clan life? If so, I'll chase every one of them out!*

Firepaw quietened and watched the creature through the undergrowth, he waited for it to draw nearer. As the black-and-white cat neared, Firepaw rocked his haunches from side to side as he prepared to spring; one more heartbeat..... then he leapt. The cat jumped into the air terrified! Firepaw gave chase. *It's a kittypet!* He thought, even though he had lived among, and had been a part of them not that long ago their scent was... nostalgic yet almost nauseating. *Starclan! Did I smell that bad before? I hope not, I can almost get why cats were so against me, why* ***he*** *was so against me.....*

Just thinking of the lean, striped tabby almost sent him hurling; he was trying so hard not to think of him during this assesment, his smoky pale blue eyes, his mischievous smirk that sent chills down his *(he himself i.e Firepaw)* spine, his ***voice***. Firepaw sighed, no wonder Longtail was such a molly's tom. *(In human terms, a ladies man)* Noticing he was lagging behind and could certainly run *much* faster Firepaw picked up the pace and was starting to draw closer to the fleeting animal.

Getting back into the groove with blood roaring in his ears and the wind against his fur, Firepaw leaped onto it's back in a single bound. Firepaw could feel the cat struggling beneath him as he gripped him with all his claws; the cat let out a terrified and desperate yowl. Firepaw released his grip and backed away, the bicoloured cat cringed at the foot of the fsllen tree, trembling; Firepaw lifted his nose, feeling a ripple of disgust at the intruder's easy surrender. Afterall, Yellowfang, who had been frail, weak and probably starved hadn't backed down without a fight, even after a fight she was still insistent on remaining hostile, although that *may* just be her overall personality.

Heck, even he himself, a *kittypet, **at the time***, put up more of a fight; infact, he'd wager a nice plump squirell that he'd won that fight. As he looked at this soft, plump housecat, with it's round eyes and narrow face, that looked very different from the lean, broad-headed cats that he lived with now he couldn't help but hope, once again, that he had not previously been like that. And *yet* something about this cat seemed familiar, Firepaw stared harder; he sniffed, drawing in the other cat's scent *I don't recognize that scent* he thought, searching his memory. Then it came to him, "Smudge!"

A/N: (P.s from now on, updates will take a *lot* longer)